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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,762	04/02/2004	Masanobu Hamada	2004_0520A	9970
513	7590	03/03/2006	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 K STREET N. W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			STORMER, RUSSELL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	
DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10/815762

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20060227

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Please see the attached office action.

Drawings

1. Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because it appears from the description on pages 1-5 that these figures show the prior art and not the invention. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Applicant's arguments concerning this objection are noted. Specifically, Applicant argues that drawing figures do not constitute prior art with respect to the present invention. If this is true, then the drawing figures 1 and 2 must show the present invention, since the drawings can either show the prior art or the present invention. Since the description of drawing figures 1 and 2 is presented in the Background of the Invention and the Description of the Related Art, it is maintained that these drawing figures show the prior art.

Applicant's statement that figures 1 and 2 do not constitute prior art with respect to the present invention appears to confuse the term "prior art" as is used for subject matter known before the present invention with "prior art" which meets the claim language under 35 USC 102.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The term “normal rim” in paragraph 0003 should be changed to - -conventional- - because the limits of the term “normal” are not known, and because there are hundreds of known styles of wheels and each of them could be considered to be “normal.”

Appropriate correction is required.

Applicant argues that the term “normal rim” is not synonymous with “conventional” or “standard” in the context of the wheel rim art, but instead defines a specific type of wheel rim and provides an explanation and website for support of this position.

The Examiner, through a word search in EAST, has found just 64 patents and published applications using the terms “wheel, rim, and tire” and also “normal rim.” A cursory review of these patents shows that some of them are multi-part such as those shown in the instant application, some are single-piece rims, some are bicycle rims. None appear to define the term “normal rim,” and instead appear to use the term in what would be the context of a “common” or “conventional” rim. A search for the term “reverse rim” yields just six patents, none of which use the term in a manner other than meaning the side of the rim opposite the obverse.

A similar search for these terms on the Internet yielded few results, none of which define the term “normal rim” in any context other than a “common rim.”

It is therefore submitted that the term "normal rim" rim is not widely accepted as a specific type of rim known to those of ordinary skill in the art. If the term "normal rim" has specific meaning in Japan, then generic terminology should be substituted for the term.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-14 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Response to Amendment

4. The reply filed on January 23, 2006 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the omissions or matters noted below.

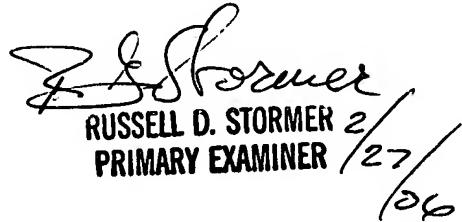
See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell D. Stormer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6687. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

2/27/06


RUSSELL D. STORMER 2/27/06
PRIMARY EXAMINER 27/06